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DA 02-2095

August 27, 2002

**WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU
SEEKS COMMENT ON JOINT PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION
REGARDING DIGITAL WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF 911 CALLS USING TTY DEVICES**

(CC Docket No. 94-102)

Comments/Oppositions Date: September 26, 2002

Reply Comments Date: October 11, 2002

The Commission's rules require that, by June 30, 2002, all digital wireless service providers were to be capable of transmitting 911 calls made using text telephone (TTY) devices.¹ On June 28, 2002, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released an Order granting, in whole or in part, certain petitions for waiver of this deadline.² On July 27, 2002, Illinois Valley Cellular RSA 2-I Partnership, Illinois Valley Cellular RSA 2-II Partnership, and Illinois Valley Cellular RSA 2-III (collectively "IVC"), Missouri RSA No.7 Limited Partnership d/b/a/ Mid Missouri Cellular (MMC), and Public Service Cellular, Inc. (PSC) (collectively "Petitioners") filed a Joint Petition For Reconsideration (Petition) seeking limited reconsideration of the Bureau's Order.

The Bureau's Order granted the Petitioners' requests for waiver of the June 30, 2002, deadline. However, the Petitioners seek reconsideration of that portion of the Order requiring carriers, by December 31, 2003, to proceed to implement a TDMA-TTY solution in the event that they still are operating a TDMA network.³ The Petitioners argue that their provision of new TTY-compatible digital services by December 31, 2003 should be sufficient to ensure that people with hearing disabilities can obtain access to 911 services using TTY devices and that it is unnecessary to require them to implement a TTY solution in TDMA systems that remain operational after that time.⁴ Petitioners further argue that, because of the phase-out of TDMA technology by large carriers and the likelihood of long-term TTY users to purchase a TTY-compatible phone based on technology that will continue to be supported, the availability of TDMA TTY-compliant handsets is uncertain.⁵

¹ See Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, Fourth Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 25216, 25218 (2000) (*Fourth Report and Order*). See also 47 C.F.R. Section 20.18 (c) and accompanying note (2001).

² Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102 (rel. July 28, 2002) (*TTY Waiver Order*).

³ Joint Petition at 2.

⁴ *Id.* at 2-4.

⁵ *Id.* at 7-8.

The Petition is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200(a), this proceeding is designated as a "permit but disclose" proceeding and subject to §1.1206 of the Commission's Rules.⁶ Presentations to or from Commission decision-making personnel are permissible, provided that *ex parte* presentations are disclosed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §1.1206(b).

Interested parties may file comments or oppositions responding to the Petition on or before September 26, 2002, and reply comments on or before October 11, 2002. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System ("ECFS") or by filing paper copies.⁷ Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent via the Internet to: <<http://www.fcc/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, postal service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number.

Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form<your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. A copy should also be sent to Andra Cunningham, Room 3-B103.

Alternative formats (computer diskette, large print, audio recording and Braille) are available to persons with disabilities by contacting Brian Millin, of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-7426, TTY (202) 418-7365, or e-mail at bmillin@fcc.gov. This *Public Notice* can also be downloaded in Text and ASCII formats at: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro>.

For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Andra Cunningham, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-1310, TTY (202) 418-1169.

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⁶ 47 C.F.R. §1.1206.

⁷ See *In re Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 13 FCC Rcd. 11322 (1998) (amending Parts 0 and 1 of the Commission's rules to allow electronic filing of comments and other pleadings).